

IUCN Protected Area Management Categories Statement of Compliance for The Woodland Trust

Introduction to Statements of Compliance

Statements of Compliance are an innovation of the IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom's Putting Nature on the Map project. The project has developed guidance on the use of the IUCN definition of a protected area and the assignment of the associated management categories and governance types¹. The guidance suggests that short but authoritative Statements of Compliance are produced for a conservation site or group of sites.

For groups of sites designated for conservation under one overriding piece of legislation or public policy the statements should concentrate on whether the sites meets the IUCN definition of a protected area. For statutory designations the Statements of Compliance should review all relevant legislation, focussing on the priority given to nature conservation in the long-term. For sites not covered by legislation the statements should review the significance for nature conservation of all relevant public policy positions that specifically affect the area.

In addition to reviewing legislation or policy in relation to the IUCN definition of a protected area, individual sites can also review in their Statement of Compliance which IUCN management category and governance type should be assigned to the site. In this case the statements should also provide an overview of current management objectives in particular in relation to prioritising nature conservation and summarize examples of current management practice that demonstrate the priority given to nature conservation and the ambition and vision for nature conservation in the future.

Note: Statements of Compliance should be prepared with full reference to the 2008 Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories (see footnote for details)

The Statement of Compliance below has been prepared for a group of sites some of which are defined in legislation and others in a non-statutory context.

¹ Dudley, N (Editor) (2008) Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. X + 86pp. <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAPS-016.pdf>

AND

IUCN NCUK (2012); Putting nature on the map - identifying protected areas in the UK: A handbook to help identify protected areas in the UK and assign the IUCN management categories and governance types to them, IUCN National Committee for the United Kingdom, UK <http://www.iucn-uk.org/Portals/0/PNOTM%20handbook%20small.pdf>

Background

The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity. Founded in 1972 the Trust works to protect native woods, trees and their wildlife; to enable the creation of more native woods and places rich in trees; and to inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees. The Trust owns and manages over 1,200 woodland sites across the UK covering over 24,000 hectares – all of which are open for free public access. The Trust has over 500,000 members and supporters.

Our sites include over 4,300 hectares of ancient semi-natural woodland and a further 3,800 hectares of ancient woodland restoration sites which were planted in the past with non-native species and will be restored. Some 1,900 hectares of our ancient woodland sites are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. In addition, the Trust has created more than 6,000 hectares of new native woodland contributing to improved habitat networks, buffering, linking and extending existing priority woodland habitat and providing a range of public access and other social benefits. Our land holding also includes significant areas of non-woodland and open habitat of conservation value.

In biodiversity terms, ancient woodland is often considered to be the UK's richest terrestrial habitat and has suffered serious decline and reduction in extent over an extended period of time. This Statement is confined to that part of our land that is known to be ancient woodland – by virtue of its inclusion on the appropriate Ancient Woodland Inventory held and maintained by the relevant statutory nature conservation body in each constituent part of the UK.

The Woodland Trust is a registered charity (England and Wales No.294344, Scotland No.SC038885) and answerable to the charity regulators; the Charity Commission for England and Wales, and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in Scotland.

Our Sites and Wider Conservation Policy

The Woodland Trust's approach to conservation seeks to secure the future of the UK's woodland through a combined approach of protecting the irreplaceable, restoring that which is damaged and degraded, and adding new and diverse woods to our depleted landscapes – new woods that can buffer, extend and link our fragmented habitats to build more resilient landscapes. We do this directly through work on our own land, and more widely through working in partnership with others, and through advocacy and influencing with a range of other bodies including government departments and agencies.

Woodland Trust sites and the IUCN definition of a Protected Area

IUCN definition of a protected area - ‘A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.’

Whilst all 24,000 hectares of the Trust’s 1,200 sites could potentially fit within a broad interpretation of the above definition, for the purposes of this Statement, the analysis undertaken by the Trust has focussed on that part of our Estate recognised as being ancient woodland sites and recorded as such on the appropriate Ancient Woodland Inventory held and maintained by the relevant statutory nature conservation body in each constituent part of the UK.

Table 1. Applying the concept of a protected area to Woodland Trust sites

Main elements of IUCN definition	Discussion of element in relation to RSPB Nature Reserves
Are the sites in clearly defined geographical areas?	Yes. All Woodland Trust owned land has defined boundaries which have been digitally mapped and are available as geographic information system files. In addition, all land identified as ancient woodland sites is also mapped and digitally recorded as part of the appropriate Ancient Woodland Inventory held and maintained by the relevant statutory nature conservation body in each constituent part of the UK. Approximately 1,900 hectares of this land is also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a statutory designation used throughout England, Scotland and Wales or Areas of Scientific Interest (ASSI) in Northern Ireland. Each of the SSSI/ASSIs has a legally notified boundary.
Are they recognised, dedicated and managed to achieve the long-term conservation of nature? NB ‘nature’ includes all levels of biodiversity as well as geodiversity, landforms and broader natural values.	The Woodland Trust’s objectives include the protection, restoration and enhancement of the nature conservation value of all the land that they own and manage. For those sites that are also in whole or part SSSIs, this designation is permanent. Individual SSSI are designated for one or more specified natural features. Management must give priority to these features but notification may have incidental benefits to other natural features.
Is the main management objective nature conservation?	Nature conservation is the principal objective of all ancient woodland sites owned and

<p>Other objectives of equal standing may be present but they do not cause conflict (i.e. nature conservation is the priority).</p>	<p>managed by the Trust. However, many of these sites have secondary objectives to promote access for public enjoyment, recreation and education. For those sites that are also SSSIs, the priority objective of SSSI notification and management is nature conservation.</p>
<p>Does the designation of the site prevent or eliminate where necessary, any exploitation or management practice that will be harmful to the objectives of designation?</p>	<p>The Woodland Trust have a strong commitment to the protection and enhancement of the nature conservation value all of our sites. This is enshrined in the charitable purpose and objectives of the organisation. Sites that also have a statutory designation, such as SSSI, also have a high level of statutory protection that restricts damaging activities or practices that would obstruct achievement of a site's conservation objective(s).</p>
<p>Does the designation of the site aim to maintain, or ideally increase, the degree of naturalness of the ecosystem being protected?</p>	<p>Yes. The Woodland Trust acts to protect, restore and enhance the nature conservation value of its ancient woodland sites. For those sites that are also SSSIs, the statutory authorities monitor and report the condition using common standards monitoring and support action to bring features in to favourable condition.</p>
<p>Is the long-term nature conservation ensured through legal or other effective means? For example, national or international statutory law/agreement/convention, traditional rules or NGO policy.</p>	<p>Yes. The Woodland Trust's own organisational policy and objectives is designed to ensure the protection, restoration and enhancement of the nature conservation value of its sites. All Woodland Trust sites have a publicly available management plan and all plans are independently audited, assessed and verified as complying with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard and certified with the Forest Stewardship Council. For those sites that are also SSSIs, their protection is established in law (Scotland: Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended); England & Wales: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)).</p>

IUCN Management Categories

The application of the IUCN management categories have been considered for all of the Trust's ancient woodland sites included within scope of this Statement. The Trust consider that all of the ancient woodland sites listed fall within the definition of IUCN Protected Area Category IV - Designated nature reserve for which the primary management objective is to maintain, conserve and restore species and habitats (public access is usually permitted and often actively promoted).

IUCN Governance Categories

All of the Trust's ancient woodland sites listed and included within the scope of this Statement are considered to fit within the 'Shared Governance' category. Although ownership of these sites rests with the Trust, decisions on their management are taken in consultation with statutory authorities, neighbouring landowners, and the local community, as well as with wider communities of interest including Trust members, supporters and other land management bodies and conservation NGOs.

Appendix 1. A full list of Woodland Trust ancient woodland sites - by country

All sites fall under IUCN Protected Area Category IV

All sites are considered to fit governance type 'Shared Governance'

Woodland Trust Site Names – England

Adams Wood	Brock Wood	Durfold Wood
Adcombe Wood	Broomhill Dene	Dutton Park
& Woodram Copse	Brow Wood	Earley Wood
Ambrose Copse	Buck's Valley Woods	East Wray Cleave
America Wood	Burgh Wood	Edolphs Copse
Archers Wood	Burroughs Wood	Elemore Woods
Ash & Luckhurst Wood	Burrs Wood	Elkin Wood
Ashcombe Wood	Butcher's Wood	Elmstead Market
Ashenbank Wood	Cadora Woods	Everdon Stubbs
Aversley Wood	Chesham Bois Wood	Fifehead Wood
Avon Valley Woods	Chiphouse Wood	Fingle Woods
Bagger Wood	Church Plantation	Firth Wood
Baileys Wood	Clamp Rough & Gallows Grove	Floodbrook Clough
Battlestead Hill	Clanger Wood	Fordy Wood Copse
Beacon Wood	Clayhill Wood	Fox & Parrot Wood
Bears Wood	Cleatop Wood	Friezland Wood
Beckmickle Ing	Coaley Wood	George Henry Wood
Beech Hill Wood	Colerne Park & Monks Wood	Gillbeck Farm Wood
Beechland Mill Wood	College Wood	Gillham's Wood
Belhus Chase	Comfort's Wood	Glover's Wood
Bewl Water Woods	Common Wood	Gomm's & Bubbles
Bilton Beck & Rudding Bottoms	Corner Copse	Gough's Coppice
Binswood	Costells Wood	Great Earls Wood
Birdwell Woods	Cow Close	Great Knott Wood
Bisham Woods	Cowcroft Wood	Great Ridings Wood
Bithams Woods	Crag Wood	Greta Wood
Bitholmes Wood	Credenhill Park Wood	Grey Park Wood
Blackaton Copse	Cropton Bank	Guestling Wood
Blackbush & Twenty Acre Shaw Woods	Crow Park	Hackfall
Blackwell Stubbs	Crowhill Valley	Hagg Wood
Blean Woods NNR	Crumpton Hill Wood	Hainault Forest
Boggle Top	Denge & Pennypot Woods	Halldale Wood
Bois Moor Lane Wood	Dering Wood	Hammond's Copse
Bovey Valley Woods	Dickers Wood	Hardwick Wood
Bow Wood	Dobshall Wood	Harpsden & Peveril Woods
Bramingham Wood	Dog Kennel Wood	Harrocks Wood
Brede High Woods	Dufton Ghyll Wood	Harry's Folly
Broad Riding Wood	Duncliffe Wood	Hawkeswood

Heartwood Forest	Lower Grass Wood	Penn Wood
Heath Hills	Lower Hartley Bank Wood	Penstave Copse
Hebblethwaite Hall Wood	Lower Lee Wood	Pentre Wood
Hedley Hall	Loxley Wood	Pepper Wood
Hell Hole Wood	Lumb Brook Valley	Pepperboxes Wood
Helmeth Hill	Mackintosh Davidson Wood	Philipshill Wood
Henlade Wood	Marden Park	Piddington Wood
Highbury Fields	Martinshaw Wood	Piles Coppice
Higher & Lower Holmes House	Masons Wood	Pippacott Wood
Higher Knowle Wood	Midge Hole	Plain Copse
Hillhouse Wood	Midgey Gill	Point & Whitehall Wood
Hoddesdon Park Wood	Millook Valley Woods	Pontburn Woods
Hoe Wood	Milltown & Lantyan Woods	Preston Spring Wood
Hollow's Wood	Miltonrigg Woods	Priestley Wood
Home Farm	Minepits Shaw	Print Wood
Hone Wood	Moat Wood	Pullingshill Wood & Marlow Common
Horse Close Wood	Moccas Hill Wood	Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Wood
Howard's Wood	Morses Grove	Rag Coppice
Hucking Estate	Morton Wood	Ragpath Wood
Hunts Wood	Moss & Height Spring Wood	Railway Wood Co Durham
Hurst Wood	Mousecastle Wood	Raincliffe Meadows
Hying Scout Wood	Munces Wood & Kimbers Copse	Reffley Wood
Ingrams Copse	Murdishaw Wood	Reynolds Wood
Ipsden Heath	Neck Wood	Rhododendron Wood
Irthing Gorge Woodland	Nellington Wood	Ricketts Wood
Joyden's Wood	New Covert & Park Woods	Riverside South
Kempston	Nidd Gorge	Robson Spring Wood
Kiln Wood	Nor Wood, Cook Spring & Owler Car	Roffe Wood
Kings Wood	North Grove	Round Wood
Kingsettle Wood	Northcote & Upcott Woods	Runnydown Copse
Lady Mabel's Wood	Northdown Wood	Rushlye Wood
Lake Wood	Northfield Wood	Sanctuary Wood
Lands Wood	Nunsbrough Wood	Saxten's & Cage's
Langley Vale Wood	Nut Wood & Wauldby Scrogs	Scar & Castlebeck Woods
Lavethan Wood	Old Copse	Sea Wood
Laycombe Wood	Old Lodge Warren	Shank Wood
Letah Wood	Old Wood, Skellingthorpe	Shaptor Woods
Lineover Wood	Otterbourne Park Wood	Skipton Castle Woods
Little Doward Woods	Oxmoor Copse	Snidley Moor
Little Foxes Copse	Packing Wood	Soapwell Wood
Longacre Wood	Parish & Oldhills Wood	Sodylt Wood
Low Burnhall	Park Wood	Stables Wood
Low Wood	Parkway Woods	Staffhurst Wood

Stanley Burn	Towerhouse Wood	Warriners Wood
Stanley Wood	Tramlines Wood	Wassell Wood
Stoke Wood	Tranquil Wood	West Wood
Stour Wood	Trenant Wood	Westcott Wood
Swan & Cygnet Woods	Tring Park	Westlaw Wood
Swineshead & Spanoak Woods	Twig & Bog Woods	Whitleigh Wood
Symonds Yat West	Twisleton Glen	Whittle Dene
Tattershall Carrs	Two Mile Coppice	William's Wood
The Task	Tyrrels Wood	Wilmay Copse
The Wilderness	Uffmoor Wood	Wither Wood
This England Wood	Upper Barn & Crowdhill Copses	Wood at Bewdley
Thornton Glen	Valley Park Woods	Workhouse Coppice
Thunderfield Grove	Vanhurst Copse	Wormley Wood & Nut Wood
Tofts Wood	Victory Wood	Wragby
Tom Wood	Views Wood (The Williams Wood)	Yealm Woods
Top Wood	Wantley Dragon Wood	Yeo Copse

Woodland Trust Site Names – Wales

Abertreweren	Coed Dyfodol Sarnau	Coed Ty'n y Coed
Abertreweren	Coed Elernion	Coed Waldo
Beaulieu Wood	Coed Felinrhyd	Coed y Ciliau
Beech Hill Wood	Coed Friog	Coed y Crychudd
Big Wood	Coed Glaslyn	Coed y Felin
Bron y Buckley	Coed Glyn Gwennws	Coed y Foel
Cefn Ila	Coed Gwempa	Coed y Garth
Cilcenni Dingle	Coed Gwernafon	Coed y Glyn
Coed Aber Artro	Coed Gwraig	Coed y Gopa
Coed Aber Eden	Coed Hafod y Llyn	Coed y Graig
Coed Aberneint	Coed Letter	Coed Ysgubor Wen
Coed Allt Beili Coch	Coed Llanelltyd	Coed Ystrad
Coed Allt Cefn Maesllan	Coed Llechwedd	Common Wood
Coed Allt Goch	Coed Lletywalter	Craig y Wenallt
Coed Allt Soar & Coed Garth Byr	Coed Maesmelin	Cwm George & Casehill Woods
Coed Allt Troed y Rhiw Fawr	Coed Merchlyn	Cwm Mynach
Coed Bron Garth	Coed Nant Gwernol and Coed Hendre Daffog	Daffog Woods
Coed Cefn	Coed nant Tawe	Gaer Fawr Wood
Coed Ceunant	Coed Oerddwr, Parc y Llys & Hafod Gwynn	Gwynn Dingle & Fron Wood
Coed Cilgelynnen	Coed Pibwr	Goitre Coed Fach
Coed Collfryn	Coed Pwllgwyn	Graig Fawr
Coed Creuddyn	Coed Tregib	Graig Wood
Coed Cymerau Isaf	Coed Tyddyn Badyn	Granner Wood
Coed Dolifor	Coed Tyddyn Du	Great Triley Wood
Coed Dolyronnen	Coed Tyddyn Halen	Green Castle Woods

Llanhaylow Wood
Lon y Coed
Marl Hall Woods
Pant yr Eos
Parc Mawr
Park Wood
Pen y Coed

Plas Power Woods
Priory Grove
Rook Wood
Shell Brook Wood
Silia Wood
The Avenue
The Brynna

The Punchbowl
Trafalgar Wood
Tyn yr Heol
Vicarage Wood & Waun y Fedwen
Wentwood
Whitemill Common & Roughets Wood

Woodland Trust Site Names – Scotland

Abriachan Wood
Aldouran Glen
Backmuir Wood
Balmacaan
Bankhead North Wood
Beeslack Wood
Bellsquarry Wood
Brighty Wood
Butterdean Wood
Catwalk (Den) Wood
Cousland Woods
Crinan Wood
Currie Wood
Deans Wood

Den Wood
Dura Den Wood
East Woods
Eliburn Woods
Formonthills
Geordie's Wood
Glen Finglas
Glen Quey
Glencharnoch Wood
Hermard Beech Wood
Huntly Wood
Inzievar Wood
Keil's Den
Kilmagad Wood

Kirkton Woods
Knightsridge Woods
Ladywell Woods
Lang Craigs
Ledmore & Migdale
Moncreiffe Hill
Murieston Woods
Plora Wood
Portmoak Moss
Pressmennan Wood
Uig Wood
Urquhart Bay
Whinny Hill Wood
Wood Hill Wood

Woodland Trust Site Names – Northern Ireland

Burntollet Wood
Cabin Wood
Friends of Belvoir Wood

Hillview Community Woodland
Keel Wood
Killaloo Wood

Oaks Wood
Prehen Wood
Throne Wood